

CLAIM AMENDMENTS**Claim 1 (original).**

A woodworking machine comprising:

a conductive cutter adapted to cut a workpiece;

a motor adapted to drive the cutter;

a contact detection system electrically coupled to the cutter to impart an electrical signal thereto, where the electrical signal has at least one property, and where the at least one property is changed when a person contacts the cutter, and where the contact detection system is adapted to distinguish contact between the cutter and the person from at least one other event generating a comparable amount of change in the at least one property based on the time during which the change in the at least one property occurs; and

a reaction system adapted to cause a predetermined action to take place upon detection of contact between the person and the cutter by the contact detection system.

Claim 2 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the at least one property is the voltage amplitude of the electrical signal.

Claim 3 (currently amended):

A woodworking machine comprising:
a conductive cutter adapted to cut a workpiece;
a motor adapted to drive the cutter;
a contact detection system electrically coupled to the cutter to
impart an electrical signal thereto, where the electrical signal has a voltage
amplitude, where the voltage amplitude is changed when a person
contacts the cutter. The machine of claim 2, where the contact detection
system is adapted to identify contact between a person and the cutter as a
reduction in the voltage amplitude of the signal on the cutter of at least 5%
within 100 microseconds, and where the contact detection system is
adapted to distinguish contact between the person and the cutter from at
least one other event generating a comparable amount of change in the
voltage amplitude based on the time during which the change in the
voltage amplitude occurs; and
a reaction system adapted to cause a predetermined action to take
place upon detection of contact between the person and the cutter by the
contact detection system.

Claim 4 (previously amended):

The machine of claim 1, where the time during which the change in
the at least one property occurs is less than one millisecond.

Claim 5 (previously amended):

The machine of claim 1, where the time during which the change in the at least one property occurs is less than one hundred microseconds.

Claim 6 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the at least one other event is contact between the cutter and green wood.

Claim 7 (original):

The machine of claim 1, where the predetermined action includes stopping movement of the cutter.

Claims 8-25 (cancelled).